

Date of Hearing: August 14, 2012

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

Paul J. Cook, Chair

SJR 19 (Strickland) – As Amended: April 19, 2012

SENATE VOTE: 35-0

SUBJECT: Military base closures

SUMMARY: This measure urges the California delegates of Congress to protect California military bases from closure during upcoming base realignment and closure processes. Specifically, this bill resolves:

1. That the Legislature urges the California delegates of Congress to protect California military bases during upcoming base realignment and closure processes;
2. That California military bases are a vital part of our national security, particularly with California's proximity to the unrest in Asia; and
3. Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the minority leader of each house, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

EXISTING LAW

10 U.S. code section 2687 discusses the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. No base (as defined) may be closed or realigned unless and until:

The Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of the military department concerned notifies the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, as part of an annual request for authorization of appropriations to such Committees, of the proposed closing or realignment and submits with the notification

- (A) an evaluation of the fiscal, local economic, budgetary, environmental, strategic, and operational consequences of such closure or realignment; and
- (B) the criteria used to consider and recommend military installations for such closure or realignment.

FISCAL EFFECT: This measure is not keyed fiscal.

COMMENTS: Defense Secretary Leon Panetta included in the Department of Defense annual request for authorization a request for BRAC in 2013 and 2015. However, the House and Senate Armed Services committees rejected a new base-closing round in their versions of the annual defense authorization bill for next year. In addition, "It's now clear obviously there will not be a round of BRAC authorized" in 2013, Panetta said in a speech to the Association of Defense

Communities in Monterey, California. Therefore it seems unlikely that BRAC will occur in 2013.

However, past rounds of BRAC had huge impacts on California. Total net DoD personnel cuts from the four BRAC Rounds in 1988, 1991, 1993, and 1995 for all U.S. states except California were 80,373; California lost 93,546. In those four rounds, California absorbed 54 percent of the nation's overall personnel cuts and lost nearly 30 major bases. In the 2005 round, over forty bases/installations and facilities were affected in the State.

Though BRAC seems unlikely to happen in 2013, it was requested by the DoD, and the NDAA versions thus far do not affect the possibility of BRAC *after* 2013. DoD's presence in California offers unique strategic military benefits to the Nation, particularly in light of the military's new focus on the Pacific region. Furthermore, DoD in 2009 spent approximately 56 billion dollars in California. Its contribution to the California economy continues to be extremely important. For all of the foregoing reasons, sending a strong message and taking a position of vigilance and concern about BRAC now is wise.

**Suggestions for amendment:** The bases selected demonstrate the strategic importance of California, however, the author might consider highlighting those bases most in danger of closure for maximum impact instead of choosing a sampling based on armed service representation.

#### RELATED LEGISLATION:

AB 342 (Butler, 2011)- Office of Planning and Research (OPR)- States that the OPR shall serve as the state's liaison to the DoD, particularly with regard to any proposed BRAC actions. In particular the OPR shall "...develop any necessary regional or stateside strategies necessary for the establishment and retention of the state's military facilities and installations that are potentially impacted by any proposed federal Base Realignment and Closure actions."

SJR 24 (Harman, 2012)- Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. This bill urges California Congressional delegates to protect Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach from closure.

SJR 25 (Harman, 2012)- Los Alamitos Joint Training Base. This bill urges California Congressional delegates to protect Los Alamitos Joint Training Base from closure.

SJR 26 (Vargas, 2012)- Naval Air Facility El Centro. This bill urges California Congressional delegates to protect Naval Air Facility El Centro from closure.

SJR 28 (Emmerson, 2012)- Department of Defense Budget Cuts- Opposes the budget proposed by the United States Air Force.

AJR 42 (Nestande, 2012)- Department of Defense Budget Cuts. Opposes the budget proposed by the United States Air Force.

#### REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

##### Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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